

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T OSLO 2427

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1,2
TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, XF, SY, LE, IS, UNSC, NO
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBONON: DEMARCHE SUPPORT OF UNIFIL

REF: STATE 126253

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON STATE SECRETARY STOLTENBERG AND MFA
POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR CHRISTIANSEN MORNING OF MAY 19
AND CONVEYED POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL.

2. STOLTENBERG INDICATED AGREEMENT WITH US OBJECTIVES
(PARA 2 REFTEL). HE STATED THAT THE NORWEGIAN CONTINGENT
IN LEBANON HAD BEEN, TO DATE, RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL IN
PREVENTING RE-INFILTRATION OF PALESTINIANS THROUGH THE
NORWEGIAN SECTOR OF THE LINE. HE NOTED THAT GON OFFICIALS
HAVE FREQUENTLY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ARAFAT IN BEIRUT ON
THE QUESTION OF RE-INFILTRATION. HE SAID THAT THE NORWEGIAN
PLO CONTACTS WERE ALSO EFFECTIVE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. HE
ALSO MADE MENTION OF THE MAY 9 VISIT TO OSLO OF PLO
REPRESENTATIVE ABDUL QUADER YASSINE.

3. CHRISTIANSEN STRESSED THE NEED FOR A FIRM DATE FOR
AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH LEBANON. HE ALSO POINTED
OUT THE PROBLEMS INHERENT IN THE PLO VIEW OF THE UN ROLE IN
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SOUTHERN LEBANON. THE PLO, HE OBSERVED, SEES THE UN FORCE
AS TASKED ONLY WITH GETTING THE ISRAELIS TO WITHDRAW; AT THE
SAME TIME, HE NOTED, THE PLO ASSERTS A RIGHT TO BE IN SOUTHERN
LEBANON, ARISING FROM EARLIER AGREEMENTS AMONG THE ARAB
FACTIONS.

4. CHRISTIANSEN POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THE GON HAD, PRIOR

TO NOW, MADE A POINT OF KEEPING THE PLO AT A DISTANCE, THE PRESENT SITUATION DEMANDED SOME DEGREE OF DIRECT GON/PLO CONTACT. HE SAID THAT THERE WAS ALSO SOME QUESTION AS TO THE APPROPRIATE EXTENT OF BILATERAL CONTACT, GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE NORWEGIANS WERE ACTING UNDER A UNITED NATIONS' MANDATE. CONCERTED UN ACTION, HE SAID, APPEARED NECESSARY.

5. CHRISTIANSEN ALSO POINTED OUT THE NEED FOR UNIFIL TO BE IMPARTIAL. THE UN FORCE, HE SAID, CANNOT SIMPLY POLICE THE PLO. AT THE SAME TIME, HE NOTED, THAT, AS LONG AS RE-INFILTRATION CONTINUED, THE ISRAELIS HAVE TO KEEP THEIR OPTIONS OPEN.

6. CHRISTAINSEN SAID THAT THE GON ALSO HAD TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT WHILE THE NORWEGIANS MAY NOW NEED MORE EXTENSIVE DEALINGS WITH THE PLO, THE LATTER WOULD EXACT A PRICE FOR ITS COOPERATION. THE ARMS-LENGTH TREATMENT OF THE PAST, HE INDICATED, WOULD BE HARD TO MAINTAIN IN SUBSEQUENT DEALINGS.

7. COMMENT: THE MFA OFFICIALS APPEARED SYMPATHETIC TO OUR AIMS, BUT ARE CLEARLY CONCERNED WITH THE NEED TO SORT OUT THEIR MIDDLE EAST RELATIONSHIPS AND ARE SOMEWHAT UNEASY ABOUT INCURRING OBLIGATIONS IN REGARD TO THE PLO.

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